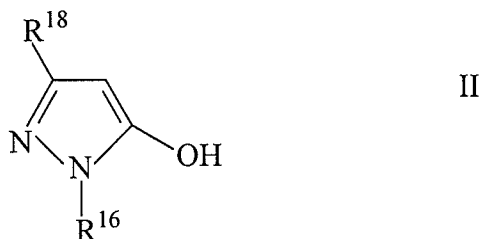


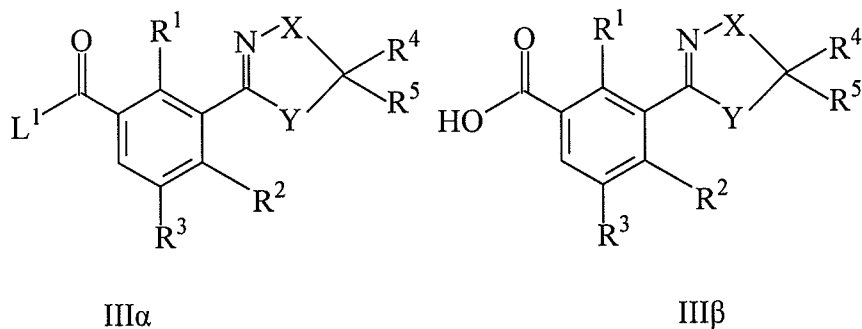
**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1.-16. (cancelled)

17. (previously presented) A process for the preparation of the 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of formula I defined in claim 28, which comprises acylating a pyrazole of the formula II

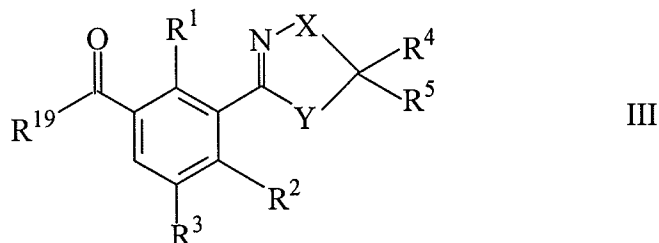


with an activated carboxylic acid III $\alpha$  or with carboxylic acid III $\beta$



wherein L<sup>1</sup> is a nucleophilically displaceable leaving group, and subjecting the acylation product to a rearrangement reaction to give the compound I.

18. (currently amended) A 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoic acid compound of the formula III,



wherein

- R<sup>19</sup> is halogen, hydroxyl or ~~a radical which can be removed by hydrolysis~~ C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkoxy,  
 R<sup>1</sup> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub>-alkyl, methoxy or methylsulfonyl;  
 R<sup>2</sup> is nitro, halogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-haloalkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylthio, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylsulfinyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylsulfonyl or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-haloalkylsulfonyl;  
 R<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen, halogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl;  
 R<sup>4</sup> is hydrogen or methyl, and R<sup>5</sup> is hydrogen;  
 X is O;  
 Y is CR<sup>13</sup>R<sup>14</sup>;  
 R<sup>13</sup>, R<sup>14</sup> are hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-haloalkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxycarbonyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-haloalkoxycarbonyl or CONR<sup>7</sup>R<sup>8</sup>;  
 R<sup>7</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl; and  
 R<sup>8</sup> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl.

19. (cancelled)

20. (cancelled)

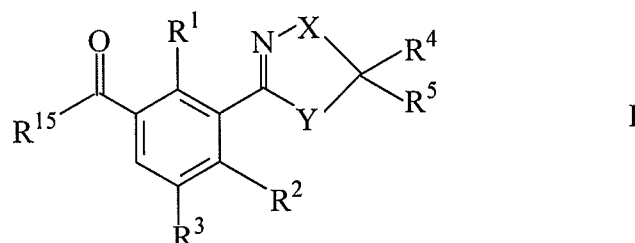
21. (previously presented) A composition comprising a herbicidally active amount of at least one 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I or of the agriculturally useful salt of I defined in claim 28, and auxiliaries conventionally used for the formulation of crop protection products.

22. (previously presented) A process for the preparation of the composition defined in claim 21, which comprises mixing a herbicidally active amount of at least one 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I or of the agriculturally useful salt of I and auxiliaries conventionally used for the formulation of crop protection products.

23. (previously presented) A method of controlling undesirable vegetation, which comprises allowing a herbicidally active amount of at least one 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I or of the agriculturally useful salt of I defined in claim 28 to act on plants, their environment and/or on seeds.

24. - 27. (cancelled)

28. (previously presented) A 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I



wherein

X is O;

R<sup>1</sup> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub>-alkyl, methoxy or methylsulfonyl;

R<sup>2</sup> is nitro, halogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-haloalkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylthio, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylsulfinyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylsulfonyl or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-haloalkylsulfonyl;

R<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen, halogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl;

R<sup>4</sup> is hydrogen or methyl, and R<sup>5</sup> is hydrogen;

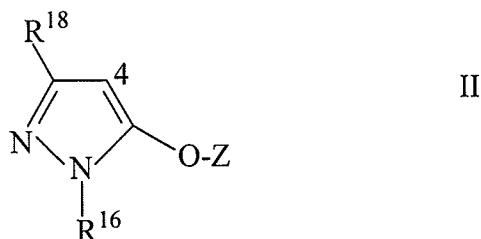
Y is CR<sup>13</sup>R<sup>14</sup>;

R<sup>13</sup>, R<sup>14</sup> are hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-haloalkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxycarbonyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-haloalkoxycarbonyl or CONR<sup>7</sup>R<sup>8</sup>;

R<sup>7</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl;

R<sup>8</sup> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl;

R<sup>15</sup> is a pyrazole of the formula II which is linked in the 4-position



wherein

R<sup>16</sup> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl;

Z is H; and

R<sup>18</sup> is hydrogen or methyl.

29. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I defined in claim 28, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is methyl, R<sup>2</sup> is methylsulfonyl, R<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen, R<sup>16</sup> is methyl and R<sup>18</sup> is hydrogen.

30. (previously presented) 4-[2-Methyl-3-(4,5-dihydroisoxazol-3-yl)-4-methylsulfonylben-zoyl]-1-methyl-5-hydroxy-1H-pyrazole.

31. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I defined in claim 28, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is methyl, R<sup>2</sup> is methyl-sulfonyl, R<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen, R<sup>16</sup> is ethyl and R<sup>18</sup> is hydrogen.

32.-33. (cancelled)

34. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I defined in claim 28, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is methyl, R<sup>2</sup> is methylsulfonyl, R<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen, R<sup>16</sup> is methyl and R<sup>18</sup> is methyl.

35. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I defined in claim 28, wherein R<sup>4</sup> denotes hydrogen.

36. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I defined in claim 28, wherein  $R^1$  is methyl.

37. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I defined in claim 35, wherein  $R^1$  is methyl.

38. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I defined in claim 35, wherein  $R^1$  is methyl,  $R^2$  is methylsulfonyl,  $R^3$  is hydrogen,  $R^{16}$  is ethyl and  $R^{18}$  is hydrogen.

39. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I defined in claim 35, wherein  $R^1$  is methyl,  $R^2$  is methylsulfonyl,  $R^3$  is hydrogen,  $R^{16}$  is methyl and  $R^{18}$  is methyl.

40. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoic acid compound of the formula III defined in claim 18, wherein  $R^4$  denotes hydrogen.

41. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoic acid compound of the formula III defined in claim 18, wherein  $R^1$  is methyl.

42. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoic acid compound of the formula III defined in claim 40, wherein  $R^1$  is methyl.

43. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoic acid compound of the formula III defined in claim 20, wherein  $R^4$  denotes hydrogen.

44. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoic acid compound of the formula III defined in claim 20, wherein  $R^1$  is methyl.

45. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoic acid compound of the formula III defined in claim 43, wherein  $R^1$  is methyl.

46. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoic acid compound of the formula III defined in claim 45, wherein  $R^2$  is methylsulfonyl and  $R^3$  is hydrogen.

47. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I defined in claim 28, wherein

X is O;  
 $R^1$  is  $C_1$ - $C_2$ -alkyl;  
 $R^2$  is  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkylthio or  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkylsulfonyl;  
 $R^3$  is hydrogen;  
Y is  $CR^{13}R^{14}$ ; and  
 $R^{13}$ ,  $R^{14}$  are hydrogen or  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyl.

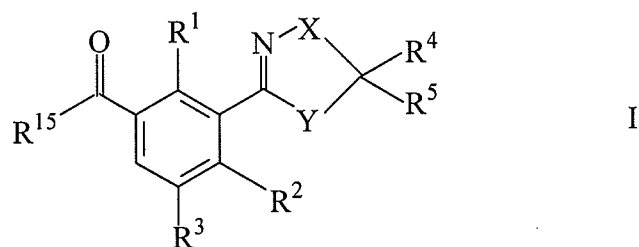
48. (previously presented) The composition defined in claim 21, comprising a herbicidally active amount of at least one 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I or of the agriculturally useful salt of I, wherein

X is O;  
 $R^1$  is  $C_1$ - $C_2$ -alkyl;  
 $R^2$  is  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkylthio or  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkylsulfonyl;  
 $R^3$  is hydrogen;  
Y is  $CR^{13}R^{14}$ ; and  
 $R^{13}$ ,  $R^{14}$  are hydrogen or  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyl.

49. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoic acid compound of the formula III defined in claim 18, wherein

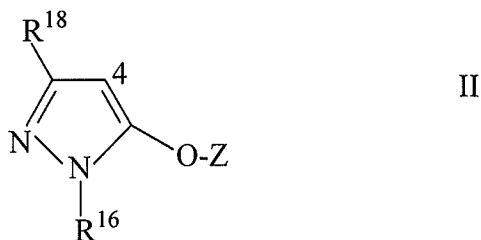
X is O;  
 $R^1$  is  $C_1$ - $C_2$ -alkyl;  
 $R^2$  is  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkylthio or  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkylsulfonyl;  
 $R^3$  is hydrogen;  
Y is  $CR^{13}R^{14}$ ; and  
 $R^{13}$ ,  $R^{14}$  are hydrogen or  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyl.

50. (currently amended) A compound represented by formula I



wherein

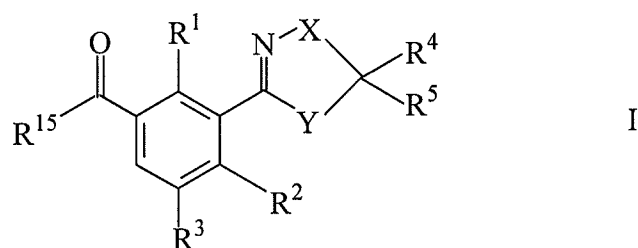
- R<sup>1</sup> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl;
- R<sup>2</sup> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylthio or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylsulfonyl;
- R<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen;
- R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> are hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl;
- X is oxygen;
- Y is CR<sup>10</sup>R<sup>11</sup>, wherein R<sup>10</sup> and R<sup>11</sup> are hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl;
- R<sup>15</sup> is a pyrazole of formula II



which is linked in the 4-position, wherein

- R<sup>16</sup> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl;
- Z is hydrogen or SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>17</sup>, wherein
- R<sup>17</sup> is phenyl or phenyl which is partially or fully halogenated and/or has attached to it one to three of the following groups: C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl and C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxy; and
- R<sup>18</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl.

51. (previously presented) A herbicide characterized by containing one or more compounds represented by formula I



wherein

$R^1$  is  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkyl;

$R^2$  is  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkylthio or  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkylsulfonyl;

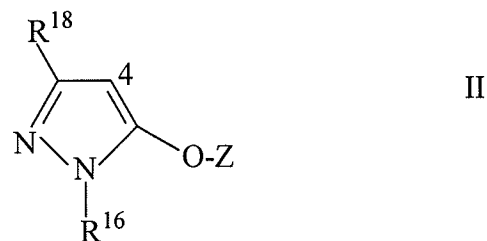
$R^3$  is hydrogen;

$R^4$  and  $R^5$  are hydrogen or  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyl;

X is oxygen;

Y is  $CR^{10}R^{11}$ , wherein  $R^{10}$  and  $R^{11}$  are hydrogen or  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyl;

$R^{15}$  is a pyrazole of formula II



which is linked in the 4-position, wherein

$R^{16}$  is  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkyl;

Z is hydrogen or  $SO_2R^{17}$ , wherein

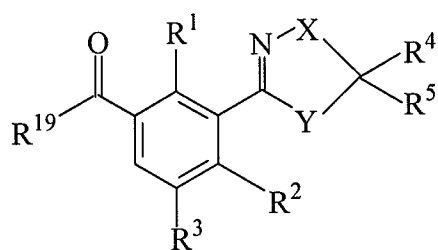
$R^{17}$  is phenyl or phenyl which is partially or fully halogenated and/or has attached to it one to three of the following groups:  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyl and  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkoxy; and

$R^{18}$  is hydrogen or  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkyl,

as active ingredients.

52. (previously presented) A compound represented by formula III





III

wherein

 $R^{19}$  is hydroxyl or  $C_1-C_6$ -alkoxy; $R^1$  is  $C_1-C_6$ -alkyl; $R^2$  is  $C_1-C_6$ -alkylthio or  $C_1-C_6$ -alkylsulfonyl; $R^3$  is hydrogen; $R^4$  and  $R^5$  are hydrogen or  $C_1-C_4$ -alkyl; $X$  is oxygen; and $Y$  is  $CR^{10}R^{11}$ , wherein  $R^{10}$  and  $R^{11}$  are hydrogen or  $C_1-C_4$ -alkyl.